

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 and 100-110 are pending. Claims 1, 100, and 102-104 are amended.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-37 and 100-110 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable based on the references as follows:

Claims	Reference
1-10, 100-107	Sasaki and Trueblood
11-12, 16, 22, 25, 27-30, 31-37, 110	Sasaki, Trueblood, and Barrus
13-15	Sasaki, Trueblood, Barrus, and Barker
17-19	Sasaki, Trueblood, and Brown
20-21	Sasaki, Trueblood, Barrus, and Infogate
23-24, 108, 109	Sasaki, Trueblood, Barrus, and Greenberg
26	Sasaki, Trueblood, Barrus, Greenberg, and Snippets

Applicant's technology utilizes the ability of a person to take in information peripherally in order to provide a wealth of information without requiring more of a person's time. This is done by creating a peripheral awareness display that displays information to the user in a form that is ready for the user's consumption whenever they glance at the peripheral awareness display, without the need to constantly interrupt the user whenever information changes. Applicant has amended the claims to clarify this aspect of Applicant's technology which is not found in any of the cited references. Claim 1 recites "graphically representing the real-time availability status of each entity via a peripheral awareness display area." Claim 100 recites "a component that displays within a peripheral awareness display area the contact availability status of each selected entity." A peripheral awareness display area involves more than the positioning of the window as suggested in the Examiner's rejection of prior claim 104. Applicant's specification describes several such properties including "peripheral awareness interfaces are always on and visible" and "peripheral awareness...does not blatantly draw the user's attention to

new or updated information immediately, but instead makes it available in the periphery." Specification, ¶18.

In contrast, none of the references cited against Applicant's independent claims teach a peripheral awareness display area. For example, Sasaki teaches a chat window where chat participants are immediately notified when the status of a participant changes. According to Sasaki, "[t]he status setting device notifies of other user terminals in the channel the set self status...the chat support device displays the notified user status with an icon." Sasaki, ¶83. The applications discussed by Sasaki are the active focus of the user, and do not provide a peripheral awareness display area. Trueblood is cited for teaching an always-visible window, but does not teach a peripheral awareness display. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejections be withdrawn.

Based on the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Dated:

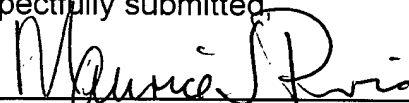
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Respectfully submitted,

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